

Urban Sanitary District of Failsworth.

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# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

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*Presented to the Failsworth Urban District Council, on Thursday,  
the 4th day of February, 1897, and Published by  
order of the said Council.*

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

FAILSWORTH.



*Jan 4/97*



# Failsworth Urban District Council.

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## MEDICAL OFFICER'S

### ANNUAL REPORT, 1896.

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The area of the Urban Sanitary District of Failsworth is 1,073 statute acres, and the population enumerated in the census of 1891 was 10,425.

The estimated population at the end of 1896 was 12,500. The vital statistics for the year have been calculated on a population of 11,420.

#### Vital Statistics

The total number of deaths for the year was 190, of these 108 were Males, and 82 were Females, giving a death-rate of 16·6 per 1,000 per annum. 65 of the total number of deaths were in infants under 1 year, giving an infant mortality of 5·6 per 1,000 per annum.

The rate of Infant deaths under one year to 1000 births was 159·3.

The total number of deaths over 1 year and under 5 was 31, over 5 and under 15 was 11, over 15 and under 25 was 9, over 25 and under 65 was 57, and 17 were over 65 years.

The total number of deaths registered in the previous year of 1895 was 252, with a death-rate of 22·55 per 1,000 per annum. In 1894 there were 171 deaths with a death-rate of 15·6, and in 1893 there were 236 deaths with a death-rate of 21·6 per 1,000 per annum.

#### Births

The total number of Births registered during the year was 408. 206 Males and 202 Females, giving a birth-rate of 35·7. In the year 1895 there were 359 Births, and in the year 1894 there were 390 Births, giving birth-rates of 32·12 and 35·6 respectively.

#### Infectious Diseases

85 cases of Infectious Disease were notified under the Compulsory Notification Act, which was adopted in 1892.

The Death-rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases was 1·7 per 1,000 per annum.

#### Scarlet Fever

54 cases of this disease were reported, 12 of which were under 5 years, and 42 over 5 years.

19 of these were removed to Hospital, and 35 were isolated and treated at their own homes. One death occurred amongst those treated in Hospital, and one amongst those at home.

Diphtheria	There were 8 cases of this disease, 4 under 5 years, and 4 over 5. These cases were all isolated and treated at home, 3 deaths occurred from this disease all under 5 years of age.
Small Pox	There was not a single case of this disease during the year.
Enteric Fever or Typhoid	Three cases of this disease were reported during the year. One died in Hospital and 2 died at home.
Erysipelas	Eleven cases of this disease were reported, and one died.
Puerperal Fever	Two cases were reported, both died.
Membranous Croup	Three cases were reported and 2 died.
Measles	As there is no compulsory notification of this disease the exact number of cases could not be ascertained, but there were 2 deaths in children under 5 years.
Whooping Cough	There were 7 deaths from this disease all in children under 5 years.
Influenza	There were 8 deaths from this disease or its complications during the year.
Phthisis	There were 15 deaths from this disease, 6 under 5 years and 9 over.
Relapsing Fever	One case was notified.
Continued Fever	There were 3 cases of this disease notified during the year.
	We had no cases of Typhus or Cholera. 39 deaths occurred from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.
Diarrhoea	There were three deaths from this disease.

**House  
Accommodation**

The houses in the township consist chiefly of four and six-roomed cottages, the majority of which are of modern construction and in good sanitary condition. We obtained a closing order against some dilapidated property, and I have inspected and reported upon two other blocks of property as being unfit for human habitation.

**Water Supply**

The water supply in this district is from the Oldham Corporation, and has been satisfactory throughout the year. I should strongly advise the Council to try and get a supply to at least some of the nearest farms. The Manchester Corporation also supply a few houses.

**Scavenging**

The scavenging of the district is carried out by the Sanitary Authority. We have now paved and sewered the north side of the Main Road, as well as a great number of the side streets.

**Refuse**

The refuse is disposed of in tips and used by the farmers as manure.

**Drainage and  
Sewage  
Treatment**

The Sanitary Authority have adopted the International System, and the drains are being connected up to the mains. The works are now complete and are working very satisfactorily.

**Canal Boats**

There are no Canal Boats located in the district, they merely pass through to the other towns.

**Bakehouses**

There are 4 bake-houses all in good condition.

**Slaughter Houses**

There are 7, six of these are registered and satisfactory. The other is to be discontinued.

**Lodging Houses**

There are none in the district.

**Cowsheds**

There are 26 cowsheds in the district kept in a fairly clean and satisfactory condition, but 19 are over-crowded and do not allow the 600 cubic feet of air space required for each cow, and the water supply in many cases is not satisfactory. The Regulations of the Local Government Board are in the hands of the Bye-Law Committee. The Inspector has visited them periodically and reported.

**Factories and  
Workshops**

There are about 80 in the district, I should like to see the sanitary conveniences at these places converted to the water-closet system, and the Mill Owners prohibited from turning steam into the sewers.

**Sale of Food and  
Drugs Act**

Several samples of milk were purchased and analysed with a satisfactory result. There were no prosecutions under this Act.



- Food unfit for Human Consumption**      The meat supply is very good. There was none seized during the year.
- River Pollution**      Our Sewage Works are now completed and in perfect working order.
- Monthly Reports**      In my monthly reports during the year I have given an account of the health of the inhabitants, and answered questions upon sanitary matters, having attended the Monthly Meetings of the Council. The particular sanitary matters requiring consideration during the ensuing year are the connecting up to the main sewers. of the drains still unfinished. The gradual approximation to a water carrying system instead of the obsolete pail and midden system. The closing of old dilapidated and unsanitary dwellings, and the strict supervision of the Jerry Builder.
- Department of the Inspector of Nuisances.**      111 Notices have been served to abate nuisances, 99 have been complied with, and the to her 12 are receiving the attention of the respective owners.
- Smoke Observations**      77 Observations of 60 minutes duration were taken, 6 notices have been served, and in 5 instances legal proceedings were taken, 4 orders of abatement have been granted, 3 penalties and in one costs only, 2 occupiers of dwelling-houses have been fined for chimney firing.
- Buildings.**      The New Buildings occupied during the year were: Dwelling-houses 102, shops 12, total 114; and there were on December 31st in course of erection 75 dwelling-houses and 1 shop. If we calculate 5 inmates for each house the population will have been increased by 950.

*Geo. W. Beattie, M.D.*

4th FEBRUARY, 1897.



